IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 2-7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

M

The present invention also relates to a phase-change recording medium for use in the information recording apparatus, the information reproducing apparatus, the information recording and reproducing apparatus, the information recording method, and the [[image]] information reproducing method.

Please replace the paragraph at page 27, line 22, to page 28, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

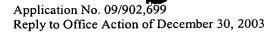
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The portion B in (b) in FIG. 4 indicates another example of controlling the track-direction recording mark length by changing the retention time of at least one power level in accordance with the multi-leveled information to be recorded. In this example, the recording power level Pw or the bias power level Pb is changed stepwise into a plurality of levels with respect to the power level retention time thereof (which corresponds to the pulse width thereof) Tw or Tb. The portion B in (b) in FIG. 4 indicates a preferable example in which both [[TW]] Tw and Tb are changed, with the ratio of the respective retention times of Tw/Tb being set in a range of 0.3 to 1.5.

Please replace the paragraph at page 28, line 12, to page 29, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:



When a recording mark M with a short track-direction recording mark length is formed, the power level retention times, [[TW]] <u>Tw</u> and Tb, are shortened, while when a recording mark M with a long track-direction recording mark length is formed, the power level retention times, [[TW]] <u>Tw</u> and Tb, are lengthened. By lengthening the power level



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retention time Tw, the track-direction recording mark length of the recording mark M is increased, and by lengthening the power level retention time Tb, the cooling time is lengthened, so that the track-direction recording mark length of the recording mark M is further increased, with the rear edge portion Me of the recording mark M being elongated.